Matilda (Goodrich) Bush Letter, 1845

Letter from Matilda (Goodrich) Bush to her parents-in-law, Conrad & Mary (Watson) Bush, dated 29 Aug 1845, pertaining to the death of Matilda's husband Elias Bush (b.1804) who died 25 Aug 1845. Matilda and Elias were living in Pamelia, Jefferson Co., New York at the time of his death.

Provenance:

- Georg Conrad Bush (1757-1854)
- John Bush (1792-1872), son
- Lyman Bush (1823-1893), son
- Ferdinand Edgar Bush (1848-1939), son
- Burdette F. Bush (1883-1978), son
- Barton Conrad Bush, grand-nephew – copy of transcription given to Alexandra Esty (Sanderson) Stocker

To Conrad & Mary Bush

Pamelia Aug. 29th 1845

Dear Parents I have often resolved to write you but have as often failed as resolved. But as duty now compels me I must attempt the task. But would to heaven some guardian angel were commissioned to assist me to impart to you the sorrow that now tares my bleeding heart pain would I think it a dream but it is no fiction.

You my Dear parents through the mysterious providence of God are called to mourn the loss of a son, I an affectionate husband and my children a kind Father. Friday the 22 Elias complained of a severe head-ache and a pain in his bones and limbs in consequence of going into the cistern the evening before and taking cold as we supposed, -------- in the afternoon but felt no relief. next ------- took an ------ well at night and early Sat -------- went out and watered the horses and ------ the cows and sheep into ---- some corn in, then came and spoke of ----- so well said he felt like going to work but I remonstrated thinking he would do him no good but he said in reply, the morning air was healthy he ate breakfast with us, washed shaved and assessed himself, read some walked about out doors and in, complained of nothing but feeling weak until about four oclock in the afternoon when he came in after being out an hour or two he said his throat was very sore. thought he would have the quinsy unless soon helped, went to his bed. I then applied a musterd poultis but it gave him no relief, he continued to grow worse and at midnight he was in considerable distress. Horace went for a physician; about two in the morning there was a material change for the worse, the physician arrived about three and staid until sun an hour high in the morning thought he had the throat oil his prescriptions seemed to do no good, he grew worse about half past eleven H went for another Dr. he staid through the afternoon and did all he could to give relief. I can cast no reflections on the old Dr. Goodale for he is a man of great skill and experience, except that he did not tell me plainly that my Dear husband could not live, for had he thought he was so soon to leave ----- and --- should have said something ------ on the subject, but as it was my whole ---- and energies were spent in trying to ease his pain ---- old Dr. left Sun an hour ------ in the afternoon because a patient in the village but sent the young Dr. Goodale with directions how to proceede he staid till the_____...

O heaven pity me my husband the Father of my children snatched from me in such a short time. It was a quarter past ten on Monday evening when the spirit left the clay tenement as I humbly trust to rest in heaven. O the distress the awfull anguish that Elias endured for twenty-two hours was to great for my trembling hands and aching heart to describe, none but an eye witness can have any idea. his disease was the croup or in other words the inflamation of the wind pipe. My prayer to God is that this mysterious stroke of providence may be sanctified to all the relatives Father, Mother Brothers and Sisters but especially to my family. I need supporting grace. Yours in the bonds of affliction MATILDA BUSH